

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WEBER RIVER WATER RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
(Exclusive of the Ogden River)**

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, a meeting of the Weber River Water Rights Committee was held at Weber Basin Water Conservancy District headquarters, at 2837 East Highway 193, Layton, Utah, on Tuesday, June 17, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Osguthorpe, at 10:00 a.m.

**Present:**

Chairman Stephen Osguthorpe  
Committeeman Mark Anderson  
Committeeman Theo Cox  
Committeeman Tage Flint  
Committeeman D. Pete Page  
Committeeman Scott Paxman  
Committeeman Kent Peterson  
Committeeman Ivan Ray  
Committeeman Dee Waldron  
Committeeman Dennis Wright

**Excused:**

Committeeman Jay Christensen  
Committeeman Connely Baldwin

Ben Anderson, Utah Division of Water Rights  
Jared Manning, Utah Division of Water Rights  
Reed Cozens, Commissioner  
Sherrie Mobley, Secretary

**I**

**WELCOME NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Chairman Osguthorpe welcomed Kent Peterson. He said Kent is a new trustee who has filled the seat previously occupied by Dennis Marchant. Kent stated he was looking forward to serving as a committee member. He also said he operates a farm and is associated with the Upper and Lower Marion Irrigation Company. Kent was welcomed by the other committee members.

**II**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD JANUARY 22, 2014**

The minutes of the meetings held January 22, 2014 were presented for review and approval. There were no additions or corrections. Motion was made by Ivan Ray, seconded by Tage Flint and passed, approving the minutes of the meetings held January 22, 2014 as presented.

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WATER RIGHTS  
SALT LAKE

### **III**

#### **DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCIES**

Chairman Osguthorpe reported Keith Steed has resigned from the Weber River Water Rights Committee. He said Keith recently moved out of state and can no longer serve on the committee. Keith was originally appointed to the committee to represent the water users in the lower Weber River area and was a past president of Wilson Irrigation Company.

Chairman Osguthorpe stated due to Keith's affiliation with Wilson Irrigation Company, we recently received a letter from the irrigation company recommending Larry McFarland be appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee. Larry McFarland has been a member of Wilson Irrigation Company's board for more than 20 years and was highly recommended by their president. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Dennis Wright, seconded by Mark Anderson and passed unanimously, appointing Larry McFarland to fill the vacancy created by Keith Steed's recent resignation.

### **IV**

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF 2013 WEBER RIVER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT AND CURRENT UPDATE**

Chairman Osguthorpe reported the 2014 Weber River Distribution System Annual Report has been completed for several months. He complimented Commissioner Cozens for the excellent work he did in producing a good report and in such a timely manner. He then asked Commissioner Cozens to review the report with the committee members.

Commissioner Cozens reviewed the annual report in detail. Many questions were asked by the committee members and were answered by Commissioner Cozens. Discussion concerning the annual report followed. Commissioner Cozens reported this year's runoff started May 19<sup>th</sup> and concluded this week. It was about 75 to 77 percent of normal and was better than last year.

Commissioner Cozens presented an update of the water rights and reservoir storages as of June 2014. His update included: 1) snowpack and available water, 2) water right duty class and priority cuts, 3) reservoir storage tables, 4) Weber-Provo Canal table, 5) comments and concerns, and 6) questions.

Chairman Osguthorpe expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Cozens for the noticeable hard work and effort he continues to dedicate as river commissioner.

**V  
UPDATE ON WEBER – PROVO DIVERSION**

Chairman Osguthorpe asked Commissioner Cozens to update the committee on the Weber – Provo Diversion.

Commissioner Cozens referred to his handout, particularly the Comments and Concerns section. He reported the Weber-Provo Diversion continues to take a significant portion of the runoff water originating above Oakley. The lion's share of this amount is taken based upon "surplus" flows. Surplus flows are those flows that exceed the current and senior demands placed upon the system as a whole. Meaning that efficiencies brought into the system, i.e. reduced flood water usage, have increased the available "surplus" flows to the Weber-Provo Canal. Commissioner Cozens said that his suggestion is that senior water right owners should maximize the beneficial use of their flood flows to reduce the surplus flows available to the Weber-Provo Canal, and thus keep more water within the Weber River drainage.

Tage Flint reported Smith & Morehouse is being operated completely different than it has ever been. Much discussion continued about the Weber-Provo diversions. Discussion included information requested from the Provo River Commissioner that was not immediately available. Jared Manning from the Division of Water Rights agreed that there needs to be more transparency and immediacy of data.

**VI  
DISCUSSION CONCERNING TELEMETRY ON MEASURING DEVICES**

Chairman Osguthorpe reported Jared Manning has asked that this item be discussed by the committee. He asked Jared to continue.

Jared said installing additional telemetry on the Weber River will help the commissioner make better use of the water. It will also help users to be able to watch other users stay within their water rights. Jared said the costs for telemetry have decreased and it's more affordable. The commissioner has over 100 diversions with only a small portion of them measured. He said we are hopeful to someday have telemetry on all devices the commissioner regulates. Jared suggested we devise a plan to accomplish this someday.

Jared reported we need to take an inventory of what we have and determine which could be equipped right away and which could not. To accomplish this we will need to identify what the system needs, obtain a funding source, install the devices, and determine the annual O&M expense for the additional telemetry devices. He said installation of the needed telemetry can be done over a period of years. Jared stated the Division of Water Rights staff can start by identifying sites we can start with. Commissioner Cozens agreed with Jared. He said installation of additional telemetry will protect water users with minimal costs and maximize our

water. Mention was made that this project would be a perfect candidate for a matching grant. Discussion continued.

**VII  
OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Osguthorpe reported Ivan Ray has asked for a few minutes to discuss the Weber River Management Plan. He asked Ivan to continue with the discussion.

Ivan Ray stated the Weber River Management Plan was recently completed by Jay Henrie through a project authorized by the Weber River Water Users Association. He said several entities contributed funds to this project including the Weber River Water Rights Committee at \$3,000. Ivan replied Jay Henrie exceeded the approved budget on this project by \$20,165.25. He stated there were several reasons for the overage. The main reason was due to the ongoing discussions with Provo River Water Users concerning the Weber-Provo Canal. Jay had rewritten this section of the plan multiple times due to the many concepts that were discussed. Another reason for the overage was due to the metering research that was done on the Weber River. He said Jay had discussed the metering needs on the Weber River with Commissioner Cozens and also submitted a grant for them. Unfortunately the grant was submitted after the deadline and was not considered.

Ivan Ray reported Jay is willing to reduce the cost of the overage considerably. He would like to recoup at least \$5,000 to \$10,000 for this additional time that was spent on the plan. Ivan said he would like to see Jay receive \$10,000 and recommended the Weber River Water Rights Committee contribute an additional \$697.61 to make this possible. Discussion followed.

After discussion ceased, motion was made by Dee Waldron, seconded by Mark Anderson and passed unanimously, authorizing an additional \$697.61 toward the Weber River Management Plan completed by Jay Henrie.

**VIII  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

s/ Sherrie Mobley, Secretary